

1 CLAIMS

Sub A2

- 2 1. A physiologically acceptable formulation for application to a body as a foam, said formulation comprising a foamable gelling agent and a slow release precipitant therefor, wherein said slow release precipitant is combined with said gelling agent during the foaming thereof and stabilises the foamed form of the gelling agent.
- 3 2. A formulation as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said precipitant is packaged separately to said gelling agent prior to foaming.
- 4 3. A formulation as claimed in either one of Claims 1 and 2 wherein said gelling agent is alginate, carboxymethylcellulose, collagen, a polysaccharide, agar, a polyethylene oxide, a glycol methacrylate, gelatin, a gum, or salts or derivatives of any of these, or mixtures thereof.
- 5 4. A formulation as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said gelling agent is alginate, carboxymethyl-cellulose, carageenan gel, the derivatives or salts thereof, or mixtures thereof.
- 6 5. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein said gelling agent has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 200,000 kDa.
- 7 6. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein said precipitant is a salt of calcium, zinc, copper, silver or aluminium; borates; glyoxal; or amino-formaldehyde pre-condensates

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3. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 further containing a foaming agent.

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4. 8. A formulation as claimed in Claim 7 wherein said 5 foaming agent is cetrimide, lecithin, a soap, 6 silicone, a surfactant or the like.

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9. 9. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 8 wherein the gelling agent comprises an alginate gel, a carageenan gel or a carboxymethylcellulose 11 gel and wherein the precipitant is a calcium salt.

12. 10. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 13 8 wherein the gelling agent comprises 14 carboxymethylcellulose gel and wherein the 15 precipitant is an aluminium salt.

16. 11. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 17 10 further comprising an organic acid in an amount 18 of 0.5 g to 5.0 g per 100 g gelling agent.

19. 12. A physiologically acceptable foam comprising a 20 foamed gelling agent stabilised by a precipitant.

21. 13. The foam as claimed in Claim 12 in the form of a 22 cured foam sheet.

23. 14. A foam as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said 24 precipitant is packaged separately to said gelling 25 agent prior to foaming.

26. 15. A foam as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 14 27 wherein said gelling agent is alginate, 28 carboxymethylcellulose, collagen, a 29 polysaccharide, agar, a polyethylene oxide, a 30 glycol methacrylate, gelatin, a gum, or salts or 31

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1 derivatives of any of these, or mixtures thereof.

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3 16. A foam as claimed in Claim 15 wherein said gelling
4 agent is alginate, carboxymethyl-cellulose,
5 carageenan gel, the derivatives or salts thereof,
6 or mixtures thereof.

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8 17. A foam as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 16,
9 wherein said gelling agent has a molecular weight
10 of from 10,000 to 200,000 kDa.

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12 18. A foam as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 17,
13 wherein said precipitant is a salt of calcium,
14 zinc, copper, silver or aluminium; borates;
15 glyoxal; or amino-formaldehyde pre-condensates

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17 19. A foam as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 18
18 further containing a foaming agent.

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20 20. A foam as claimed in Claim 19 wherein said foaming
21 agent is cetrimide, lecithin, a soap, silicone, a
22 surfactant or the like.

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24 21. A process of sterilising a foam for medical or
25 veterinary use, said process comprising:

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27 a) foaming a formulation of Claims 1 to 11 and
28 allowing said foamed formulation to cure;

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30 b) treating said foam with precipitant;

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32 c) optionally washing said treated foam;

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34 d) drying said treated form; and

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4 22. The process of Claim 21 wherein said treated foam
5 is washed in a de-ionised water/glycerine mixture
6 prior to drying.
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8 23. The process of either one of Claims 21 and 22
9 wherein the treated foam is oven dried at
10 temperatures below 100°C.
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12 24. The process of any one of Claims 21 to 23 wherein
13 the foam is immersed in a bath of calcium chloride
14 or calcium citrate solution as precipitant.
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14 or calcium citrate solution as precipitant.
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